

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EDUCATION

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| In the Matter of the |) | |
| |) | |
| Suspension of the Educator |) | ORDER OF SUSPENSION |
| |) | |
| Certificate of Evelyn Black |) | |
| |) | |
| Certificate # 099434 |) | |

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 9, 2004. On May 18, 2004, the State Department of Education (Department) sent Ms. Evelyn Black a notice of her right to a due process hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee and regular mail. Ms. Black received this notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt. She did not request a hearing within the time frame specified within the notice letter. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Black's certificate until she repays her outstanding loan with the State of South Carolina obtained through the Center for Teacher Education, Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA).

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Black holds a valid certificate, with over twenty-nine years of teaching experience. On September 20, 2000, Ms. Black signed a promissory note with the State of South Carolina to obtain a loan of \$2300 to pay for the costs of applying for certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). One of the terms of that agreement was that Ms. Black agreed to repay the \$300 non-refundable application fee if she withdrew from the NBPTS application process prior to the submission of the required portfolio. Ms.

Black did withdraw prior to that date and has not repaid the \$300. CERRA and the State Department of Education sent several letters to Ms. Black informing her that the \$300 was now due and of the consequences for failing to repay the amount due.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that there is substantial evidence supporting its decision to suspend Ms. Black's certificate #099434, from the date of this Order until she has satisfied her financial obligation in the amount of \$300 to the State of South Carolina, as established in the loan agreement referenced above. At the end of the suspension period, if Ms. Black wishes to have her certificate reinstated, she may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Teacher Certification of the Department of Education.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Mary E. Jones

Dr. Mary E. Jones

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

November 9, 2004